

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OUAGAD 00551 260233Z

70

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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USIA-06 /065 W

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R 251730Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1022

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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LOME FOR AMB GRAHAM PARIS FOR MELONE

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, UV

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT LAMIZANA HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE GIVING
BACKGROUND ON NEW GOVERNMENT FORMED FEB 9, 1976

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED:

1. ENTIRE TEXT BEING FORWARDED BY POUCH.
2. IN A NO HOLDS BARRED PRESS CONFERENCE, THE LIKE OF WHICH IS RARELY SEEN ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT, PRESIDENT LAMIZANA ADDRESSED QUESTIONS POSED BY VARIOUS JOURNALISTS CONCERNING SEVERAL AREAS OF CONCERN ABOUT THE NEW GOVERNMENT THAT HAVE BEEN THE SOURCE OF GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION SINCE ITS FORMATION.

HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESIDENT'S STATEMENTS FOLLOW:

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A. THE NEW GOVERNMENT REPRESENTS ONLY A CHANGE IN PERSONNEL. DESPITE THE FACT THAT IT IS PREDOMINANTLY CIVILIAN, IT IS NONE THE LESS A MILITARY GOVERNMENT. THE DECLARATIONS OF FEB 8, 1974 STILL OPERATE.

B. A SPECIAL COMMISSION WILL SOON BE APPOINTED WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY WILL INCLUDE THE STUDY OF THE ESSENTIAL QUESTION OF RETURNING TO CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT.

C. THE FORMATION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT DOES NOT INDICATE A DEPARTURE FROM THE CONCEPT OF NATIONAL RENEWAL.

D. THE MEMBERS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT WERE SELECTED BECAUSE OF THEIR PATRIOTISM, COMPETENCE AND ABILITY TO PERFORM. THEY WERE EACH SELECTED AS INDIVIDUALS. NO CONSIDERATION WHATSOEVER WAS GIVEN TO GROUPS OF AFFILIATIONS TO BE REPRESENTED. IN THIS RESPECT THE ACCUSATION THAT A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS REPRESENT THE MLN POLITICAL PARTY IS INVALID BECAUSE SINCE 30 MAY 74 THE MLN AS WELL AS ALL OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES WAS DISSOLVED. NO POLITICAL PARTY HAS ANY LEGAL CLAIM TO EXISTENCE IN UPPER VOLTA.

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3. COMMENT: DESPITE FRANK INTERCHANGE, IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THE LABOR UNIONS WILL BE SATISFIED WITH THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS, THE UNIONS ARE ESPECIALLY CONCERNED THAT THIS GOVERNMENT ONLY BE CONSIDERED PROVISIONAL AND THAT A DEFINITE TIME TABLE BE ESTABLISHED FOR THE CHANGE OVER TO CONSTITUTIONAL OR CIVILIAN RULE. SO FAR, LAMAZANA'S ADROITNESS HAS ENABLED HIM TO EFFECTIVELY COPE WITH UNION DISSATISFACTION.
DUMAS

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